

## **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service has two financial assistance programs that may be used on private, state, and tribal land following fire damages.

Landowners should contact their local USDA Service Center or Conservation District office for more information.

### **Environmental Quality Incentives Program, EQIP**

NRCS offers financial assistance to agricultural producers through EQIP. Financial assistance is available to assist landowners with deferred grazing after the fire, weed control, re-seeding, and in some cases fencing. Additional funding may also be available to address longer-term restoration activities. Agricultural producers and forest landowners can apply for EQIP financial assistance at any time. Applications are competitively ranked periodically.

### **Emergency Watershed Protection Program, EWP**

EWP is available to local sponsors, such as a county government or conservation district, to aid in recovery work. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to install measures that will reduce post-fire damage. The measures are intended to reduce threats to life or property, retard runoff, restore capacity of waterways, prevent flooding and/or soil erosion, and reduce damage from sediment and debris. The removal of debris deposited by the disaster that is a health or safety hazard can be a part of such measures as well. Applications must be made to NRCS within 60 days of the disaster.

Kris Berg  
Program Specialist  
Bozeman, MT  
(406)587-6849

## **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

When BLM lands are impacted by wildfire the agency uses an interdisciplinary (ID) team approach to evaluate threats to life, property, natural and cultural resources, and infrastructure. These ID teams document threats, as well as potential treatments and monitoring, in Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) plans. ES funds are available immediately after the fire for projects that mitigate imminent threats to life or property (treatments that reduce the likelihood, magnitude, and/or consequence of an events occurrence). Allowable treatments include soil and slope stabilization, flood hazard reduction, stream channel stabilization, hazard tree removal, and the repair or replacement of infrastructure (to maintain emergency access and egress). BAR projects such as fence replacement and noxious weed control are usually available the following spring. Since many of the areas we're striving to protect are on down slope private lands, these plans can be very helpful to adjacent landowners. For more information or assistance, contact your local BLM office (in Billings, Butte, Dillon, Glasgow, Great Falls, Havre, Lewistown, Malta, Miles City, or Missoula) or call Mike Philbin at the Montana State BLM Office at: (406) 896-5041.

### Ash Creek Fire – Local Contact:

There are minimal BLM lands in this fire area. However, the BLM contact would be Todd Yeager at the BLM Miles City Field Office (406) 233-2837

### **Forest Service (FS)**

Two BAER Teams are now established, the first on the Ash Creek Fire, Custer National Forest and the second on the Pony Fire, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. BAER assessments and funding requests should be completed on the Ash Creek Fire, by July 23 and days and July 18 on the Pony Fire. Both teams are coordinating with appropriate sister agencies (NRCS, Montana DNRC, BLM, and BIA). Mark Story, retired Gallatin N. F. Hydrologist leads the Ash Team and Craig Kendall, Watershed Program Manager on the Flathead leads the Pony Team. Funding approval should be within 5 working days on the Ash Creek Fire and 3 working days on the Pony Fire.

The Ash creek Fire values at risk are primarily focused on archeological site protection and stabilization of the existing road network. The NRCS in coordination with the Custer National Forest has buried a total of 127 cattle at two locations to protect public health.

The Pony Fire values at risk are primarily focused on reducing the spread of noxious weeds into the burned area.

Burned area severity maps will be made available for distribution as soon as they are finalized. There are no significant risks to homes of downstream flooding identified at this time on either fire. There may be several downstream stream road crossings that are at risk but analysis is not yet complete.

### **Long Term Rehabilitation and Restoration Needs**

A long term burned fencing rehabilitation and restoration need has been recognized on these fires. In total, several hundred miles of fencing has been destroyed. BAER policies do not allow for general replacement of fencing (FSM 2523.2.2.b & c). It is anticipated that the need to replace this fencing will be raised with the Congressional Delegation and State Governor. At present there are no know funds available sufficient to address this need.

### **Contacts**

Bruce Sims – Regional BAER Coordinator  
406-329-3447

Pony Fire - Peri Suenram – Acting District Ranger, Jefferson Ranger District, Whitehall, MT  
406-287-3223

Ash Creek, Taylor, and Boyce Fires - Walt Allen – District Ranger, Ashland Ranger District, Ashland, MT 406-784-2334

### **Montana Conservation Corp (MCC)**

The Montana Conservation Corps is a statewide nonprofit that provides crews to address a variety of environmental needs throughout the region. Crews can complete manual labor projects such as the removal, repair or installation of fencing, removal of hazard trees, re-planting trees and shrubs, erosion control, streambank restoration and stabilization or trail rehabilitation. As an AmeriCorps program, crews can work for governmental or other nonprofit entities or on private lands when the project is for the 'public good'. But, in those cases, the project must have a public entity sponsor such as the Bureau of Land Management, DNRC or a Conservation District.

MCC provides 6-7 person crews of young adults who come self-contained with crew leaders, a vehicle, hand tools, and the ability to camp out in all weather conditions. Sponsor must provide any specialized tools or equipment and in some cases may need to provide some training and instruction. Crews are covered by workers compensation and liability insurance. Crews have flexible schedules, working hitches from 4 to 40 days as the project dictates and are available from mid-March through the end of October. Crew costs are \$4300/crew week this year and will be \$4500/crew week in 2013.

Please contact our state office in Bozeman at 406.587.4475 for more information.

Lee Gault" <[lee@mtcorps.org](mailto:lee@mtcorps.org)  
Cell 406-949-4618

### **Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)**

DNRC Forestry Assistance does support a wildfire rehab webpage at <http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Assistance/FireRehab/default.asp>. This will take you directly to the rehab page for the Multi Agency Wildfire Rehab group. <http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/forestry> will get you close then click on wildfire rehabilitation information to get to the same place.

**Contact:**

Rob Ethridge  
406-542-4303  
[rethridge@mt.gov](mailto:rethridge@mt.gov)

DNRC has available \$125,000 to be used for fire rehab efforts, including erosion control and water quality work. The emphasis is for local conservation districts to apply for the grant dollars and to have the grants/projects administered locally.

**Contact:**

Ray Beck  
406-444-6671  
[rbeck@mt.gov](mailto:rbeck@mt.gov)

## **Montana Department of Agriculture**

The Noxious Weed Emergency Grant program will provide cost-share funding from the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant program and the USDA Forest Service Cooperative Assistance program for local cooperative weed management areas affected by wildfires. All projects must be in areas associated with a **Named Fire** and should focus on monitoring and eliminating the spread of existing or newly introduced noxious weed infestations and monitoring. It can also provide for re-vegetation efforts to help in the recovery process. Dept. of Ag. can also provide technical assistance on weed related issues. Contact Kim Johnson at 406-438-1964 or 406-444-1517 or by email at [kijohnson@mt.gov](mailto:kijohnson@mt.gov) or contact Dave Burch at 406-438-2558 or 406-444-3140 or by email at [dburch@mt.gov](mailto:dburch@mt.gov).

The Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage program can also assist with finding certified forage for livestock and certified straw products for mulch and other re-vegetation efforts. Contact Jeremy Seidlitz by calling 406-438-1313 or 406-652-2823 or by email at [jseidlitz@mt.gov](mailto:jseidlitz@mt.gov).

Montana also has a Hay Hotline that producers can list hay for sale or pasture for rent and they can also find hay or available pasture. The Hay Hotline webpage is, <http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Producer/HayHotline/> or contact: **Montana Department of Agriculture** at (406) 444-2402 Fax: (406) 444-9442 E-mail: <mailto://agr@mt.gov>.

## **USDA Montana Farm Service Agency (FSA)**

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides assistance for natural disaster losses, resulting from drought, flood, fire, freeze, tornadoes, pest infestation, and other calamities. FSA programs are administered in the 48 FSA county offices located in communities across Montana.

### **Loans for losses to crops, trees, livestock, farm land and farm property:**

The **Emergency Loan Program** provides low-interest 2.25 percent loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. A secretarial, presidential or FSA administrator's disaster declaration is required.

The **Disaster Debt Set-Aside Program** provides producers who have existing direct loans with FSA who are unable to make the scheduled payments to move up to one full year's payment to the end of the loan. Assistance is available in counties, or contiguous counties, who have been designated as emergencies by the President, Secretary or FSA Administrator.

### **Farm land damage:**

The **Emergency Conservation Program** (ECP) provides assistance to producers if their land was damaged by a natural disaster and needs conservation practices. Examples include removing debris; restoring fences and conservation structures; and providing water for livestock in drought situations.

**Crop Losses:**

**The Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** provides assistance for crop losses when federal crop insurance is not available. A policy must be purchased by sales closing date.

**Tree Losses:**

**The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)** provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster.

**Livestock and Grazing Losses:**

**Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** acres allows producers to hay or graze CRP acreage during an emergency. With prior approval of FSA, emergency haying and grazing of CRP acreage may be authorized to provide relief to livestock producers in areas affected by a severe drought. A CRP payment reduction will apply.

**Emergency Use of CRP:**

In cases of wildfire/flood, livestock producers in the affected county may get approval to temporarily use CRP in order to protect their livestock. Prior approval is required.

Congress is currently working on the next Farm Bill. FSA county offices administer FSA programs authorized under the federal 2008 Farm Bill of which five disaster programs are only authorized for natural disasters occurring prior to Sept. 30, 2011. These five disaster programs are:

- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Livestock Forage Program (LFP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- **The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)** Signup for the 2011 crop year is expected to occur this fall/winter of 2012 for the SURE program.

**RECORD KEEPING:**

While we do not know what the program requirements will be for any new disaster programs in the new Farm Bill, FSA encourages agricultural producers with 2012 losses to keep records, including photos of dead livestock, receipts, inventories, description of cause of loss, dates of loss, etc. in anticipation of future disaster programs.

**CONTACT:**

For more information about FSA programs contact your local county FSA Office and/or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt).



## Montana Farm Service Agency County Office Directory

County Code	County	Office Mailing Address	Phone #
001	<a href="#"><u>Beaverhead</u></a> *	420 Barrett Street, Dillon, MT 59725	406/683-3830
003	<a href="#"><u>Big Horn, Crow Reservation, Northern Cheyenne Reservation</u></a>	724 West Third, Hardin, MT 59034	406/665-3442
005	<a href="#"><u>Blaine, Fort Belknap Reservation</u></a> *	PO Box 307, 228 Ohio, Chinook, MT 59523	406/357-2320
007	<a href="#"><u>Broadwater</u></a>	415 South Front Street, Townsend, MT 59644	406/266-4253
009	<a href="#"><u>Carbon</u></a>	PO Box 509, 606 W Front Street, Joliet, MT 59041-0136	406/962-3300
011	<a href="#"><u>Carter</u></a>	PO Box 5, 308 S. Mormon Ave., Ekalaka, MT 59324	406/775-6355
013	<a href="#"><u>Cascade</u></a> *	#12 Third St NW, Suite 300, Great Falls, MT 59404	406/727-7580
015	<a href="#"><u>Chouteau</u></a>	PO Box 309, 1210 25th Street, Fort Benton, MT 59442-0309	406/622-5401
017	<a href="#"><u>Custer</u></a> *	3120 Valley Drive East, Miles City, MT 59301-5599	406/232-7905
019	<a href="#"><u>Daniels</u></a>	PO Box 127, 131 A Highway 5 East, Scobey, MT 59263	406/487-5366
021	<a href="#"><u>Dawson</u></a>	102 Fir Street, Glendive, MT 59330-3196	406/377-5566
023	<a href="#"><u>Deer Lodge</u></a>	1002 Hollenback Road, Suite B, Deer Lodge, MT 59722	406/846-2337
025	<a href="#"><u>Fallon</u></a>	PO Box 1516, 141 South 4th Street West, Baker, MT 59313-1516	406/778-2238
027	<a href="#"><u>Fergus</u></a> *	211 McKinley St., Suite 2, Lewistown, MT 59457	406/538-3489
029	<a href="#"><u>Flathead</u></a>	133 Interstate LN, Kalispell, MT 59901-2877	406/752-4242
031	<a href="#"><u>Gallatin</u></a>	3710 W. Fallon St. #D, Bozeman, MT 59718-6433	406/522-4000
033	<a href="#"><u>Garfield</u></a>	PO Box 329, 307 Main St., Jordan, MT 59337	406/557-2740
035	<a href="#"><u>Glacier, Blackfeet Reservation</u></a> *	1 3rd St. NE, Cut Bank, MT 59427	406/873-5618
037	<a href="#"><u>Golden Valley</u></a>	PO Box 5, 206 First Street North, Ryegate, MT 59074	406/568-2221
039	<a href="#"><u>Granite</u></a>	1002 Hollenback Road, Suite B, Deer Lodge, MT 59722	406/846-2337
041	<a href="#"><u>Hill</u></a>	Hill Co. FSA Office, 206 25 <sup>th</sup> Ave W. Suite #2, Havre MT 59501	406/265-6792
043	<a href="#"><u>Jefferson</u></a>	3 Whitetail Road, Whitehall, MT 59759-9635	406/287-3262
045	<a href="#"><u>Judith Basin</u></a>	121 Central Avenue, Stanford, MT 59479	406/566-2218
047	<a href="#"><u>Lake, Flathead Reservation</u></a> *	64352 US Highway 93, Ronan, MT 59864-8738	406/676-2811
049	<a href="#"><u>Lewis and Clark</u></a>	790 Colleen Street, Helena, MT 59601	406/449-5277
051	<a href="#"><u>Liberty</u></a>	PO Box 669, 18 Main Street, Chester, MT 59522-0669	406/759-5129
053	<a href="#"><u>Lincoln</u></a>	133 Interstate LN, Kalispell, MT 59901-2877	406/752-4242
055	<a href="#"><u>McCone</u></a>	PO Box 187, 104 10th Street, Circle, MT 59215-0187	406/485-2744
057	<a href="#"><u>Madison</u></a>	3 Whitetail Road, Whitehall, MT 59759-9635	406/287-3262
059	<a href="#"><u>Meagher</u></a>	PO Box J, 4147 Highway 89, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645	406/547-3521

061	<a href="#"><u>Mineral</u></a>	3550 Mullan Road, Suite 106, Missoula, MT 59808-5125	406/829-3395
063	<a href="#"><u>Missoula</u></a>	3550 Mullan Road, Suite 106, Missoula, MT 59808-5125	406/829-3395
065	<a href="#"><u>Musselshell</u></a>	109 Railroad Ave. East, Roundup, MT 59072	406/323-2067
067	<a href="#"><u>Park</u></a>	5242 Hwy. 89 South, Livingston, MT 59047-9611	406/222-0212
069	<a href="#"><u>Petroleum</u></a>	211 McKinley St., Suite 2, Lewistown, MT 59457	406/538-3489
071	<a href="#"><u>Phillips, Fort Belknap Reservation</u></a>	1120 US Hwy 191 S, Suite 2 Malta, MT 59538	406/654-1333
073	<a href="#"><u>Pondera</u></a>	406 North Main, Conrad, MT 59425-2706	406/278-7611
075	<a href="#"><u>Powder River</u></a>	PO Box 9, 114 N. Lincoln Ave., Broadus, MT 59317	406/436-2321
077	<a href="#"><u>Powell</u></a>	1002 Hollenback Road, Suite B, Deer Lodge, MT 59722	406/846-2337
079	<a href="#"><u>Prairie</u></a>	PO Box 626, 409 East Spring, Terry, MT 59349	406/635-5381
081	<a href="#"><u>Ravalli</u></a>	1709 North First Street, Hamilton, MT 59840-3357	406/363-1444
083	<a href="#"><u>Richland</u></a> *	2745 West Holly Street, Sidney, MT 59270	406/433-2103
085	<a href="#"><u>Roosevelt, Fort Peck Reservation</u></a>	PO Box 519, 508 6th St. E, Culbertson, MT 59218-0519	406/787-6262
087	<a href="#"><u>Rosebud, Northern Cheyenne Reservation</u></a>	PO Box 6, 270 South Prospect, Forsyth, MT 59327-0006	406/346-7333
089	<a href="#"><u>Sanders</u></a>	PO Box 639, 7487 MT Highway 200, Plains, MT 59859	406/826-3751
091	<a href="#"><u>Sheridan, Fort Peck Reservation</u></a>	119 North Jackson, Plentywood, MT 59254	406/765-1550
093	<a href="#"><u>Silver Bow</u></a>	3 Whitetail Road, Whitehall, MT 59759-9635	406/287-3262
095	<a href="#"><u>Stillwater</u></a>	334 North 9th Street, Columbus, MT 59019	406/322-5348
097	<a href="#"><u>Sweet Grass</u></a>	PO Box 610, 225 Big Timber Loop Rd, Big Timber, MT 59011	406/932-5159
099	<a href="#"><u>Teton</u></a> *	1102 Main Ave. NW, Choteau, MT 59422-0836	406/466-5351
101	<a href="#"><u>Toole</u></a>	1125 Oilfield Avenue, Shelby, MT 59474	406/434-5234
103	<a href="#"><u>Treasure</u></a>	PO Box 6, 270 South Prospect, Forsyth, MT 59327-0006	406/346-7333
105	<a href="#"><u>Valley, Fort Peck Reservation</u></a> *	54062 US Hwy 2 W, Suite 1, Glasgow, MT 59230-2846	406/228-4321
107	<a href="#"><u>Wheatland</u></a>	PO Box 669, 809 Second Ave., NW, Harlowton, MT 59036-0669	406/632-5622
109	<a href="#"><u>Wibaux</u></a>	502 2nd Ave., NW Wibaux, MT 59353-9040	406/796-2221
111	<a href="#"><u>Yellowstone</u></a> *	1629 Ave. D, Bldg A, Suite 2, Billings, MT 59102-3042	406/657-6135